



Lake Michigan Coastal Coordination Program

1999 *Annual Report*

*May 25, 2000
Port of Indiana*

Introduction

I am pleased to present the Indiana Coastal Coordination Program's Annual Report describing our activities during the year 1999. As we begin the twenty-first century, there is renewed interest in the health of our coastal ecosystems and the vitality of the communities which benefit from and support our state's coastal resources. However, the coastal region continues to experience increasing pressure on its natural resources, economy, and communities. It is projected that by 2020, the region's population will increase by over 10% from 1990's levels. This projected increase would result in a 2020 population of over 785,000 people. With these challenges also come opportunities. Several organizations in the coastal region are actively seeking solutions to these challenges. The Coastal Coordination Program continued to identify and contribute to these initiatives.

The 1995 Natural Resources Commission Resolution served as the foundation of the Coastal Coordination Program goals for addressing the region's environmental and social needs. Developing and contributing to partnerships with citizens, local governments, state agencies, and federal agencies allowed the program to achieve many of our goals. In addition to contributing to local initiatives, the Coastal Coordination Program achieved our goals by working with state and regional organizations to highlight Indiana's coastal region in national agendas for the Great Lakes ecosystem. This regional approach can result in more resources being allocated locally through partnerships.

Looking back on 1999 brings a sense of satisfaction for past achievements and reconfirms our commitment to the coastal ecosystems and communities of Northwest Indiana. We invite you to review this report to learn more about the Coastal Coordination Program and the many partnerships in which we are involved.



Resolution

RESOLUTION FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION IN THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF INDIANA'S LAKE MICHIGAN COASTAL REGION

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana includes a diversity of plant and animal species unmatched in the state, including the Karner blue butterfly, sea rocket, Pitcher's thistle, Kalm's St. John's wort, beach pea, dune goldenrod, and Peregrine falcon;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana displays ecosystems of special significance, portions of which are preserved within the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and the Indiana Dunes State Park, and portions of which are outside these preserves;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana contains the Port of Indiana, the busiest port on Lake Michigan and a critical element of Indiana commerce;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana maintains a steel industry with state-of-the-art technology that produces 25% of the nation's steel;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana possesses a major oil refinery and other critical energy generating industries;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana is located adjacent to Chicago, a great metropolitan center, establishing both opportunities for tourism and challenges for providing adequate infrastructure and community services;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana includes Lake Michigan, an unparalleled water resource within the state, for boating, sport fishing, and commercial fishing;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana shares Lake Michigan, its major source of drinking water, with industrial and other usages within and outside Indiana;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana concentrates these diverse and sometimes competing uses within 45 miles of shoreline;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana is challenged by environmental degradation, much of it dating from the beginning of the 20th Century, including one of 43 areas of concern designated in the United States and Canada by the International Joint Commission;

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana is experiencing population growth which both enhances opportunities and exacerbates challenges; and

WHEREAS, Northwest Indiana is governed by a multiplicity of statutory and regulatory standards, some of which are exclusive to the region, and these are administered by a multiplicity of federal, state, and local agencies;

Resolution

NOW BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION THAT

The Department of Natural Resources shall expand and enhance meaningful opportunities for public participation by citizens of Northwest Indiana in decision making relative to natural, cultural, commercial, and recreational resources.

The Department of Natural Resources shall seek to simplify and clarify permitting processes and incentive programs in Northwest Indiana.

The Department of Natural Resources shall actively pursue improved communication and coordination within the agency and with other state, federal, and Northwest Indiana agencies and governmental units.

The Department of Natural Resources shall develop new educational tools, including the preparation of manuals and the possibility of placing staff locally who have computer skills, to assist the citizens of Northwest Indiana in exercising their rights and opportunities relative to agency functions.

The Department of Natural Resources shall work with citizens of Northwest Indiana to help identify and prioritize social and environmental needs, particularly as they relate to the responsibilities of the Department.

The Department of Natural Resources shall explore and investigate innovative methods and opportunities which may help address the requirements of Northwest Indiana.

The Department of Natural Resources shall seek methods to implement these directives without the enactment of additional statutory authority or the imposition of new regulations which usurp the legitimate prerogatives of local government and civil liberties of private citizens.

The Department of Natural Resources shall report to the Natural Resources Commission, at least once a year, on its progress toward achieving these directives.

Goals

The Department of Natural Resources shall expand and enhance meaningful opportunities for public participation by citizens of Northwest Indiana in decision making relative to natural, cultural, commercial, and recreational resources.

Opportunities for Coastal Coordination

The Coastal Coordination Program contracted with the Delta Institute to conduct research and analysis of management agreements, local agencies, initiatives, and local delegates for state programs. The resulting report will be used to identify coordination opportunities and to provide the public with information and contacts for the many coastal efforts and entities. The Delta Institute contacted over 60 local, state, and federal government agencies and non-governmental organizations in order to identify responsibilities and collaborative activities. In the process of identifying existing agreements and exploring areas for potential new agreements, Delta Institute staff held discussions regarding coastal coordination with representatives. From these interviews, the Delta Institute concluded that there is an important partnering and support role to be played by the DNR and there are opportunities to strategically leverage existing agreements and initiatives to meet the Coastal Coordination Program's goals. The report recommends that the Coastal Coordination Program should work through existing initiatives and agreements in Indiana's coastal region. The Coastal Coordination Program could then establish partnering and support roles which would maximize the effectiveness of existing efforts and meet the essential needs of those endeavors. It was also recommended that the Program use funds and technical expertise to support these on-going local initiatives. And finally, the Program should establish Coastal Quality Indicators that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of coastal coordination efforts. The report emphasized that "by establishing a mechanism for supporting significant coastal activities in the region through coordination, technical assistance, and funding, DNR's coastal program could become much more than the sum of its parts." The report further recommends two initiatives which could become key components of a coastal coordination effort: Chicago Wilderness and the Calumet National Heritage Area Partnership.



Natural Areas Workshop and Report



During 1999, the Coastal Coordination Program and the Division of Nature Preserves initiated a project to work with local land managers to identify natural areas in need of restoration or protection. The Division of Nature Preserves (DNP) will lead an effort to evaluate coastal natural areas that are publicly owned or owned by non-governmental organizations to assess the need for restoration and protection.

To accomplish this work, the DNP will conduct a workshop in March 2000 involving natural area managers, seeking their input on the degree of habitat degradation, management needs, and protection concerns. Prior to the workshop, DNP will poll natural area managers to obtain an idea of problems causing habitat degradation, including the influence and coverage of exotic plant species. DNP will also conduct field work to further clarify the status of key natural areas.

The final product will be a report on the results of the land managers poll and workshop, criteria used to evaluate natural areas, and a priority list of natural areas in need of restoration and/or protection, including maps of the designated areas. The report is expected to be

released in Winter of 2000. Participants in the workshop, as well as local agencies and organizations, will receive a copy of the report. The report will assist local land managers in identifying priorities for managing and protecting natural areas under their care and to aid in their ability to seek financial assistance to address these priorities.

Goals

The Department of Natural Resources shall seek to simplify and clarify permitting processes and incentive programs in Northwest Indiana.

Waterway Permit Streamlining Work Group

The Waterway Permit Streamlining Work Group met several times in 1999. In July, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment was hired to facilitate the work group in its efforts to address coordination issues for waterway permits. Several recommendations were made to address early coordination, the potential for an ombudsman function and general coordination, coordination of sediment testing parameters, public notice requirements, and a joint permit application. The recommendations will be compiled in a report to be released in 2000. In addition, the report will outline an implementation plan and schedule for the workgroup's recommendations. Below are the recommendations of the workgroup.

Early Coordination

- Prepare a permit primer that addresses questions about permits
- Augment the IDEM web-based permit guide (www.state.in.us/idem/guides/permit/index.html) to address early coordination. Create links to DNR and US ACOE web resources.
- Create a targeted marketing and education program for potential permit applicants and development professionals. Provide regular educational opportunities to these stakeholder groups.
- Create permitting brochure that can be disseminated by field staff across agencies and programs.

Ombudsman/General Coordination

- Establish monthly meetings among relevant program staff within IDOC, DNR, and IDEM to discuss current and anticipated projects of concern.
- Augment existing coordination/ombudsman functions within IDEM and IDOC through continued efforts to strengthen relevant relationships. Program staff should refer projects that could benefit from coordination to these offices.
- Prepare a listing of programs and program contacts that applicants can refer to, including a reference to the potential need for local permits.
- Convene program staff from IDOC, IDEM, and DNR to review requirements and timelines within the Community Focus Fund program. The group should address creating a deadline for filing permit applications and strong guidance to applicant about the timing necessary to process permits and/or impact review.

Sediment Testing

- Create a sub-page within the web-based IDEM permit guide that addresses specifically dredging include links to the Great Lakes Dredged Material Testing and Evaluation Manual (<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediment/gltem>).
- Address coordination of sediment testing parameters for individual projects through the monthly coordination meetings proposed previously.
- Suggest that applicants meet jointly, or by teleconference, with DNR, IDEM, and US ACOE staff to develop a unified set of project-specific testing parameters.

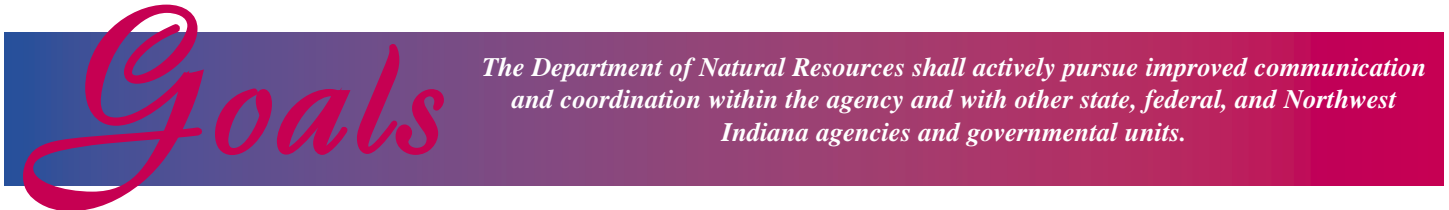
Public Notice

- Prepare a matrix of public notice requirements for various environmental programs for use by potential permit applicants. Produce a printed document.
- Post IDEM public notices on the IDEM web site. DNR notices currently are posted on the web.

Joint Permit Application

An independent group of representatives of IDEM, DNR, and US ACOE was established to address a possible joint permit application. After significant deliberation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers chose not to participate in the development of a joint application form due to the projected increase in workload. IDEM and IDNR are continuing discussions independent of the Waterways Permit Coordination Work Group regarding a joint permit application.

Plans for the implementation of these recommendations will be released with the final report in 2000.



Coastal Club

The Divisions of the DNR and IDEM's Northwest Office continued to meet regularly during 1999 to share information and coordinate projects. In addition to providing a forum for DNR's Indianapolis based employees, the Coastal Club added conferencing abilities in 1999. A conference phone line is provided to allow staff stationed in the coastal region to participate in the meetings.

Interagency Task Force on E. coli

The 1999 recreation season was marked with an increase in beach closings due to high levels of E. coli in both Indiana and throughout the Great Lakes. Lake Michigan beaches were closed 30 times in 1999, 26 of which were in the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana Dunes State Park, because of E. coli contamination. This is more than twice the number of beach closings at the National Lakeshore and State Park in 1998.

1999 was also marked by the release of monitoring data from the Interagency Task Force on E. coli that has



focused the group's attention on several priorities including point and non-point sources. The Point Source Committee consists of industry, city, state, and federal participants that in 1998 sampled 81 sites in Lake Michigan and tributaries. The Point Source Committee released a summary report of the 1998 sampling season in March. Overall, the committee found that E. coli data were correlated to rainfall and Combined Sewer Overflow discharges. The Nonpoint Source Committee also collected samples from headwater streams throughout the region. High levels of E. coli were found at all sites. Further studies are planned for the 2000 season to identify potential diffuse source.

The Interagency Task Force on E. coli continued to be a model for other states confronting E. coli contamination. For example, the Task Force worked with Chicago Environmental Department representatives as they sought

answers to the several beach closings in Illinois. In addition, the problem of E. coli contamination at our nation's beaches received national attention with the passing of the Beach Action Plan by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Representatives of the Task Force attended the National Beach Conference in October. During the conference Task Force members met with International Joint Commission staff to provide assistance in selecting a swimability indicator for the Great Lakes.

Through the Task Force's analysis of potential sources of E. coli, sources originated in Lake Michigan were considered. The Marine Sources Committee initiated discussions concerning the potential of marine sanitation devices, used the commercial and recreational boats, to contribute E. coli to beaches. Based on the recommendations of the Task Force and meetings between Indiana and Illinois state agency representatives, Larry Macklin, Chair of Indiana's delegation to the Great Lakes Commission authored a resolution requesting that the Commission sponsor a workshop on the use of marine sanitation devices on the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Commission agreed to sponsor the workshop to inform governmental authorities and the concerned public about public health issues and regulatory enforcement responsibilities associated with the use of and effectiveness of marine sanitation devices.

The workshop, "The Use of Marine Sanitation Devices on the Great Lakes", was held in Hammond, Indiana on November 10, 1999. The agenda included a panel on public health issues, a presentation on the devices and how they work by a leading manufacturer, a panel on regulatory and enforcement issues, and a panel on the perspective of the commercial navigation industry. A wide range of Great Lakes interests participated in the workshop from most Great Lakes states and Canada.

Lake Michigan Lake-wide Area Management Plan



The Coastal Coordination Program continued to serve as a contact for the Lake Michigan Lake-wide Area Management Plan. During 1999, the Program participated in the Habitat Subcommittee and attended Lake Michigan Forum meetings. The Lake Michigan Forum is a non-governmental stakeholder group formed to advise the LaMP process. At their meeting, the Forum highlights priorities for the Lake Michigan basin. The Program attended meetings that covered topics related to contaminated sediments and sustainable development. The Forum hosted the meeting on contaminated sediments in Porter, Indiana. This meeting highlighted the need for an effective public participation process in decisions concerning the remediation and disposal of contaminated sediments.

Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council

The Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council was formed in 1999 as an extension of the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. The inaugural meeting was held on September 22nd in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Membership on the council consists of state, federal, local, and tribal agencies, business, industry, agriculture, and environmental groups, Sea Grant programs, the Lake Michigan LaMP Forum, and the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission. The following mission statement was proposed at this meeting:

"The mission of the Lake Michigan Monitoring Coordination Council is to provide a forum for coordinating and supporting monitoring activities in the Lake Michigan basin and to develop and make broadly available a shared resource of information, based on documented standards and protocols, that is useable across agency and jurisdictional boundaries."

The council also proposed the following objectives:

- Document monitoring activities, identify gaps and contribute to the development of a monitoring framework for the Lake Michigan basin
- Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships that link federal, state, tribal, local and non-governmental monitoring organizations and initiatives in the Lake Michigan basin to allow for the assessment of ecosystem resources in the basin.
- Foster the implementation of monitoring activities that document data quality and are comparable throughout the basin.
- Support information networks that link basinwide information systems and allows efficient sharing and updating of monitoring information.
- Provide guidance and assistance to members of the Council so they can improve general awareness of the value of monitoring. Assist Council members and workgroups with techniques to announce, distribute, and promote their products for use by the Lake Michigan monitoring community.

Short-term workgroups were formed to provide the council with greater focus for the long-term. The workgroups include 1) Data Inventory and Assessment, 2) Monitoring Objectives, 3) Benefit Analysis and Outreach, and 4) Watershed Pilots. The Coastal Coordination Program participated in the Benefit Analysis and Outreach workgroup which designed a brochure to inform the public about the Council and the benefits of monitoring coordination. The second meeting of the council is planned for April 2000.



Grand Calumet River Restoration Fund

The Grand Calumet River Restoration Fund is a unique partnership to use funds received from a settlement with three industries in Hammond related to discharges of pollutants to the Grand Calumet River. The purpose of the Fund is to address the effects of sediment contamination in the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River and to achieve the river's designated uses. A Council was established to coordinate activities of the Fund and achieve maximum environmental benefit. To accomplish the Fund's purpose, the Council members designated representatives to remedial and restoration teams. The Coastal Coordination Program was appointed to work with the Division of Fish and Wildlife, IDEM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency team members. During 1999, the members met to plan for the necessary steps to achieve remediation of the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River. Informational fact sheets were produced on "What is the Grand Calumet River Restoration Fund?", "Why do Fish Consumption Advisories Exist for the Grand Calumet River?", and "What is the Significance of the Pollution in the West Branch of the Grand Calumet River Sediments and Water Column?". Additionally, work was initiated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to collaborate on reconnaissance studies in the project area. Although a great deal of work lies ahead of the teams to achieve the purpose of the Grand Calumet River Restoration Fund, this partnership can coalesce the various governmental purposes that affect the river and its uses for the community.

Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan: Technical Advisory Team

The Indiana Wetlands Conservation Plan (IWCP) is the result of an extensive process by a variety of interests across the state. The IWCP establishes common ground on which progress in wetlands conservation can be made and it recommends specific actions designed to achieve wetland conservation. The IWCP has six components: local wetland conservation partnership called focus areas, increased scientific information, positive incentives, wetlands education, voluntary acquisition of priority wetlands, and dedication of the Wetlands Advisory Group and the Technical Advisory Team. The Coastal Coordination Program participated on the IWCP Technical Advisory Team (TAT). The TAT consists of technical representatives from state and federal agencies involved in wetlands conservation.



The IWCP project produced several excellent products in 1999 to aid in wetland conservation statewide. These include the Focus Area Sourcebook and Directory and the Outreach Workshop Presentation Guide. Included in these resources are information and materials to enhance the efforts of existing focus areas, encourage the creation of additional areas, create a network for wetland conservation, and provide technical information about the benefits of wetlands conservation in Indiana.

Goals

The Department of Natural Resources shall develop new educational tools, including the preparation of manuals and the possibility of placing staff locally who have computer skills, to assist the citizens of Northwest Indiana in exercising their rights and opportunities relative to agency functions.

Shorelines

The Coastal Coordination Program's quarterly newsletter, Shorelines, continued to provide information on important issues in Indiana's coastal region. Articles written in 1999 included information on the Round Goby, Yellow Perch, the Calumet Empowerment Zone, Carlson Oxbow Park, the dedication of Seidner Dune and Swale Nature Preserve, the "It all adds up to cleaner air in Northwest Indiana" campaign, Peregrine falcons, and the Navy's development of regulation to control incidental wastewater discharge from military vessels. The newsletter is distributed to approximately 500 people and is accessible on the Internet at the DNR Lake Michigan Website. Shorelines has also received a new design for 2000.



DNR Lake Michigan Internet Website

The DNR Lake Michigan Website provides information about topics of importance in Indiana's coastal region. The website can be accessed at www.state.in.us/dnr/lakemich/index.htm

The Website provides links to the newsletter, topics of local interest including the Interagency Task Force on E. coli, documents including the "Synthesis of Major Topics in the Lake Michigan Coastal Area" and "Boating Laws on Indiana Waters of Lake Michigan". The Synthesis of Major Topics document was completed in 1998 to identify issues of concern raised by the Northwest Indiana public work group. It was made available on the Internet early in 1999. A similar effort was completed for the Boating Laws document. The revision and update of this document was completed in 1998 and made available over the Internet early in the year. Created as a result of a resolution adopted by the Lake Michigan Marina Development Commission asking the DNR to work to improve boater safety, wide availability was considered a priority. In addition, a poster advertising the document was distributed in 1999 to marinas and other recreational facilities.

Watershed Study

Water quality issues widely affect natural resources, economic development, public health, and recreational opportunities in the Lake Michigan watershed. The Coastal Coordination Program, in cooperation with the DNR Division of Soil Conservation, developed a scope of work for a Watershed Study of the Little Calumet-Galien Watershed in 1999. The study will be completed in Fall of 2000 and will conduct an initial inventory and analysis of water resources in the coastal region. The study will include the following:



- A description of conditions and trends in the watershed;
- Information on non point source pollution affecting water resources; and
- Potential watershed land treatment projects to improve water resources and water quality

Coastal Recreation Study

Recreation and public access continue to be important issues in Indiana's Lake Michigan region. In 1999, the Coastal Coordination Program, in cooperation with the DNR Division of Outdoor Recreation, initiated a Coastal Recreation Study of the Lake Michigan Watershed to inventory and analyze recreational plans, resources, and trends. The study will compile existing local plans, discuss regional compatibility and gaps, and discuss public recreational resources including the following:



- Public access sites to the lake, shoreline fishing, salmon streams, and boat ramp facilities;
- Areas that are conducive to environmental interpretive and educational facilities;
- Marshes, bogs, and swamps of significant recreational value for sport fishing, hunting, and or wildlife viewing;
- Areas suitable to trail opportunities for walking, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing; and
- Offshore shipwrecks.

The final report will document inventory efforts and discuss trends and needs for coastal recreation in Indiana's Lake Michigan watershed. The study is expected to be completed in 2000.

Coastal Historic and Cultural Resources Study



The Lake Michigan region has a rich history associated with its settlement and development. From 1989 to 1996, the DNR Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology supported an effort to inventory historic resources in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties through the "Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory". The inventory was collaborative effort between local historians, historic preservation societies, DNR, and the Historic Landmarks Foundation to document important resources in each county. In addition to this effort, many local initiatives work to protect and restore their community's link with the past. In 1999, the Coastal Coordination Program, in cooperation with the DNR Division of

Historic Preservation and Archaeology, initiated a study of Coastal Historic and Cultural Resources in Indiana's Lake Michigan watershed.

The study will collect existing local plans, assess regional compatibility and gaps, utilize the Historic Sites and Structures Inventory to further identify areas of special significance, identify needs for protection and restoration of significant resources, discuss trends in local historic preservation, and discuss the potential demand for heritage tourism in the watershed. The Coastal Historic and Cultural Resources Study will be completed in 2000.

Goals

help identify and prioritize social and environmental needs, particularly as they relate to the responsibilities of the Department

The Coastal Coordination Program continued to participate in local initiatives to address social and environmental needs in the coastal region. Following is a description of the initiatives and accomplishments in 1999.



The Bethlehem Steel Community Advisory Committee

The Bethlehem Steel Community Advisory Committee was formed to provide a public forum to discuss issues of importance to the community of Burns Harbor and to facilitate the improved environmental performance of the Burns Harbor Division. The committee consists of representatives from Bethlehem Steel, government, education, non-governmental organizations, labor unions, and representatives from surrounding residential areas. In October of 1999, the Committee was awarded the "Excellence in Environmental Achievement Award" by Bethlehem Steel Corporation for the communication process and establishment of the Community Advisory Committee.

The Bethlehem Steel Community Advisory Committee address several issues in 1999. Primary issues included noise affecting Dune Acres, the future use of the Little Calumet River Restoration Area placed under a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency remediation program, environmental performance measures for air quality, and the evaluation of the Committee's effectiveness through an outside observer. The committee continued to address issues of concern to the community and to plan for future opportunities to work together.

The Calumet Heritage Partnership

The mission of the Partnership is "to identify, preserve, and reclaim the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the Calumet Region of Illinois and Indiana for the purpose of educating and inspiring the public, restoring regional pride, promoting recreational use compatible with the environmental setting, and revitalizing the communities and their interconnection". The membership of the Calumet Heritage Partnership includes representatives from both Indiana and Illinois and was created in response to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore feasibility study for a Calumet Heritage Area completed in 1997. The Coastal Coordination Program began participating in Partnership meetings in Fall of 1999.



In 1999, the Partnership developed organizational by-laws and worked toward formal incorporation as a non-profit organization. In addition, the Partnership sponsored a successful workshop, "Calumet Heritage Conference", in October that will become an annual event. Approximately 119 people attended the conference held in Indiana to learn about the heritage of the Calumet region. Other projects include working with organizations on bi-state issues for Wolf Lake and presentations to local schools and organizations.

Citizens Advisory for the Remediation of the Environment



The Citizens Advisory for the Remediation of the Environment, CARE, was organized to advise the Indiana Department of Environment Management on the development of a Remedial Action Plan for Indiana's Area of Concern, the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. The CARE meets monthly in Hammond to develop the Remedial Action Plan and discuss priorities in the Area of Concern. The Coastal Coordination Program participates in the public meetings as well as the Habitat Subcommittee, which also meets monthly. During 1999, the CARE assisted in the completion of Stage 2.5 of the action plan and began planning for Stage 3, the implementation phase. The CARE also discussed related issues including the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Grand Calumet River, the dredging of the Indiana Harbor Ship Canal and the U.S. Steel reach of the Grand Calumet River, and the Lake Michigan Lake wide Area Management Plan. In addition, the Coastal Coordination Program worked with the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Section to present to the CARE information on DNR efforts to manage and restore the Lake Michigan fisheries resources.

Grand Calumet River/Indiana Harbor Ship Canal Corridor Vision Project

The Corridor Vision Project is an effort to plan for the revitalization and restoration of the river and ship canal and to promote a multiple use corridor. The Project continued its efforts to gain public input on what type of corridor they prefer in their community. To accomplish this, the Project interviewed individual municipalities, gave presentations to local groups, distributed the video "The Grand Calumet River: A Renewed Resource for a New Century", and conducted telephone survey of residents of Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. In addition, the Vision Project hosted a Children's Visioning Workshop on July 31, 1999 in Hammond. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the community youth about the Grand Calumet River and Ship Canal. About 250 people visited a display and 50 children participated in a mapping exercise to draw their preferred activities for a river corridor. In the Winter of 1999, the Vision Project began to develop their final report on the results of the project and recommendations to accomplish a corridor along the Grand Calumet River and Indiana Harbor Ship Canal. The report is expected to be released in 2000.

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission: Environmental Management Policy Committee

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, NIRPC, is a regional council of local governments serving the three counties of northwest Indiana. NIRPC provides a forum that enables the citizens of northwest Indiana to address regional issues relating to transportation, the environment, community, and economic development. The Environmental Management Policy Committee, EMPC, meets to discuss environmental issues and report to the full Commission. The Coastal Coordination Program participates in monthly meetings of the EMPC.

During 1999, the EMPC continued a campaign to address air quality issues, wetland identification, and Indiana's participation in the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. The Chicago Wilderness project is a three state cooperative effort to promote the protection of biodiversity. The project released the Biodiversity Recovery Plan in 1999 to provide guidance on how to "protect natural communities of the greater Chicago region and restore them to long-term viability in order to enrich the quality of life of its citizens and to contribute to the preservation of global biodiversity".

Following several EMPC meetings and public input meetings on the Biodiversity Recovery Plan sponsored by NIRPC, the EMPC recommended a resolution for the NIRPC to adopt the plan. The EMPC also conducted a long range planning effort towards the end of 1999 to identify issues of importance for 2000.



Goals

The Department of Natural Resources shall explore and investigate innovative methods and opportunities which may help address the requirements of Northwest Indiana

Geographic Information System for the Coast

The Coastal Coordination Program continued to work with Indiana University and the Indiana Geological Survey (IGS) to expand the geographic information available on the Internet on the Lake Rim GIS website. In 1999, IGS worked with DNR Coastal Coordination Program and Lake Michigan Specialist to map shoreline structures and create a database that provides detailed information about each structure. The database provides the public with information about the type of structure, its location, and other descriptive information. In addition, series of shoreline photographs were added to the Lake Rim GIS website. The photographs are easily accessed for all sections of the shoreline and can be downloaded by the public. The Lake Rim GIS website provides access to the series of photographs from 1987 to 1999 to allow the public to view changes in the shoreline over time.

The Coastal Coordination Program also worked with IGS and other DNR Divisions to add geographic information on recreational facilities, trails, historic districts, historic bridges, bird observation data, state nature preserves, floodplain delineation, wetlands, and elevation contours. The database for historic bridges also includes photographs of the bridge, developed by the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, that can be viewed on the Lake Rim GIS website.

Coastal Zone Management Program Development Grant

The Coastal Coordination Program continues to meet the requirements of the third coastal program development grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This grant was used to fund the work, described early in the report, on the Lake Rim GIS, the Natural Areas Workshop and Report, and the report on Opportunities for Coastal Coordination. In addition, the projects initiated in 1999 to examine water resources, recreation, and historic and cultural resources will be funded under this third grant. The Coastal Coordination Program also completed the application to receive the final award for program development through NOAA. The application was approved in 1999 and the funds will be available through 2001.

The Coastal Coordination Program utilized the grant under NOAA and the projects described in this report to make progress on the development of a draft Coastal Coordination Plan. During 1999, the Program developed draft sections of the Coastal Coordination Plan that discuss issues of importance in the coastal region. These include the documentation of existing mechanisms used by Indiana to manage cultural and natural resources in the coastal area, an identification of areas of significance for their ecological, historic, recreational, or economic importance in the region, a review of federal consistency under the Coastal Zone Management Act, and documentation of Indiana's programs related to coastal hazards and erosion. Development of the Coastal Coordination Plan will continue under the final NOAA grant during 2000.

National and Regional Meetings

The Coastal Coordination Program attended several national and regional meetings on issues of relevance to Indiana's Coastal region.

- National Coastal Zone Management Program Manager's Meeting, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Coastal Services Center
- Great Lake Program Manager's Meeting, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
- National Coastal Zone Management Program Conference on Dredging Issues, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers





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